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From: Downing, Jane
Sent: Tue 9/27/2016 5:42:01 PM
Subject: FW: RELEASE: PFOA Technical Advisory

Greetings To All

This is to let you know that EPA recently released a Technical Advisory for the Laboratory Analysis of Drinking Water Samples for PFOA Using EPA Method 537 Rev. 1.1. See description below.

In short, EPA learned, from NH DES as supported by EPA R1 Lab, that laboratories were taking different approaches for PFOA analysis under the EPA Method. We are recommending that laboratories analyzing for PFOA in the future quantify both the linear and branched isomers. Q&As are provided in the document – see link below.

We thank NH DES for bringing this important issue to EPA's attention.

Let me know if any questions/concerns

Have a good day

Jane

As a follow up, you can now find the TA online at:

www.epa.gov/safewater

- See Highlights section (lower middle)

EPA is providing a technical advisory to laboratories to address analysis of PFOA under EPA Method 537 Rev 1.1 ("Method 537"). The advisory describes EPA/ORD's intent to revise the method to describe how to measure PFOA in a more comprehensive way. The improved technique allows laboratories to more consistently account for both forms of PFOA (linear, the dominant form and branch-chained, the less common form) in the absence of a quantitative analytical standard that includes both forms. The approach described in the advisory is more inclusive and more protective. EPA therefore recommends that laboratories use the technique in future analysis.

Background

EPA included PFOA and PFOS among the contaminants for which water systems were required to monitor under the third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 3), which was promulgated in 2012. Results of the 2013-2015 monitoring effort can be found on the publicly-available National Contaminant Occurrence Database (NCOD). EPA updates the information approximately quarterly. In accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), EPA will consider the occurrence data from UCMR 3, along with the peer reviewed health effects assessments supporting the PFOA and PFOS Health Advisories, to make a regulatory determination on whether to initiate the process to develop a national primary drinking water regulation.

Please note that in the TA, EPA provides the following Q&A.

Q. How should laboratories that have analyzed UCMR 3 drinking water samples for PFOA using Method 537 address this advisory?

A. In considering this question, EPA first undertook a reassessment of the PFOA results reported

under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 3). EPA applied conservative assumptions to estimate the potential contribution of branched isomers in samples, and has concluded that the impact on the UCMR 3 PFOA data is very limited. Whereas EPA had previously identified that 63 of 4909 public water systems [PWSs] (just under 1.3%) had one or more UCMR results with PFOA + PFOS above EPA's Health Advisory value, the reassessment identified a total of 65 PWSs (just over 1.3%) that met the same criteria. The fact that the reassessment had such little impact on the conclusions is to be expected since less than 1% of the reported results for PFOA were at or above the minimum reporting level. Based on the findings of EPA's re-assessment, the Agency has concluded that repeat UCMR sample collection and analysis for PFOA is not warranted. EPA Regions will continue to work with their states to reach out to any public water systems with reported or estimated PFOA + PFOS results above the Health Advisory value.

Q. What action should I take if I contracted with a commercial laboratory to analyze my drinking water for PFOA?

A. If you contracted with a laboratory to analyze for PFOA in your drinking water and the combined concentration of PFOA and PFOS was between 50 and 70 ppt, you might consider contacting the laboratory to ensure that the analytical results reported by the laboratory are based on the more comprehensive technique for measuring PFOA.

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